NUMB. LXII.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

——— *Nos animorum*
Impulsu & cæcâ magnâq; cupidine ducti
Conjugium petimus, partumq; Uxoris ; at illis
Notum qui pueri, qualisq; futura sit Uxor. JUVEN.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23. 1724.

WHO Pride and Pleasure my self, in nothing, more, than when I can be personating the *good old Man*, as I call it, that is to say, Acting the Part of a Father towards the Youth of either Sex, that I know it is in my Power to assist, must *naturally* have a singular Regard for those worthy Gentlemen and venerable Matrons, my Co-temporaries, whose approved Wisdom and Virtue, generally induce prudent and indulgent Parents, to consign beloved Children to their *Guardianship* and *Care*.——— The Truth is, That, whenever I light upon the least Commerce with this worthy and beneficial Set of People, I am willing to improve it, and make the most of it I can, both for their Sakes, and my Own, that we may pick out of one another, sometimes, as it may often happen, a lucky Hint that has been useful in conducting one Child to its Welfare, and by pushing it seasonably in the Education of another, make it the Happier, its whole Life after.——— For this Reason I was resolved, in some Measure, to dispatch the Request of the following Letter, as early as possible, and because, as the careful Writer of it has young Ladies under her Tuition, I do not only consider Her as a common Correspondent, but have for Her that *fraternal* Piety and Regard, which is felt by an *Affectionate Brother* for a truly *Valuable Sister*.

SIR, October 12, 1724.

HAVING the Charge of two young Ladies of Fortune lately devolved upon me ; I cannot but think it very needful to call in the Assistance of the PLAIN DEALER *to enable me to perform this important Task, with that Justice and Prudence, which I am convinc'd it requires.*

I therefore beg you will give me some Rules for Education ; and, that they may be the better Adapted to my present Necessity, I must tell you, as concisely as I can, the different Dispositions I have to deal with.

THE *eldest is about Fifteen, very Bookish, but her chief Study has hitherto been in Romances, and Novels. I think it not proper to discourage this Taste of Reading in her, but would rather lead her, Insensibly, into the Perusal of Books really Useful ; which to such a One, ought to be entertaining too. What they must be, I submit to your Judgment, who, I hope, will Recommend some Authors that may be safely put into her Hands.*

MY younger Charge, not quite Fourteen, is so far from reading Romances, that I can fix her to Nothing ; She promises fair to be the very Counter-part of your Patty Amble ; *And I believe has been a* Coquette *from her Cradle ; She is good-natured, but giddy and unsettled, and I fear it will be a difficult Matter to make her a reasonable Woman, tho' She certainly has good Sense.*

THIS *will be no Paradox, when we consider how many People loose the Benefit of a fine Understanding, for want of fixing it upon a proper Basis.*

YOUR *Thoughts upon this* SUBJECT *will be a Publick Benefit, and a Particular Favour to*

SIR, Your constant Reader,
and humble Servant,
ASPASIA.

IT is Nobly and Generously observed by a very Excellent Poet of the present Age, that, To *do one real good Action*, is preferable to the *writing* wittily and ingeniously, describing of *many glorious Deeds*, acted by others, in a sublime and illustrious Stile.——— But then again, Methinks, on the other hand, it justly gives one an unspeakable Pleasure to deliver in *writing* any useful Documents, where one has substantial Reason to expect they may produce in others, as their happy Consequence, the virtuous Habit of doing *many good Actions*. The honest Inclination, and solid Judgment of *Aspasia*, and her earnest Desire, That I would give her a Word of Advice, by way of Assistance in the Guardianship of two young Ladies, which she has made her Province, concur to raise in me this pleasing Expectation, and therefore, while I shall lay down some few cursory Observations, which may be of Service to the Method of Educating young People, I am not asham'd to own, That the little Entertainment, which I this Day offer to that particular Class of my Readers, is a kind of Feast to my Self.

ASPASIA shews, That She very well knows, the first and the most important Point, which certainly consists, in studying every Turn of their Tempers, and finding out the whole true Bent of their Inclinations. The perfect Knowledge of this, once obtained, the next Step is, to improve and heighten their Native good Qualities upon all Occasions, and *artificially* to transform, and mould, by insensible Degrees, the very Defects and Errors of their Nature, into Graces and Ornaments. But as there are many *Manners* of doing this, and most of them too frequently found insufficient, our Search should be for some *New Manner*, which might, if possible, better answer the *End*. As we must *naturally* Love those, whom of our own Accord, and without a *view* of *Profit*, we desire to Instruct in all that will conduce to their Prosperity ; And, as it is *natural*, both in Young and Old, not to love Instruction for Instruction's Sake, nor those, who obtrude it upon them ; but it is, on the contrary, natural to them to listen with all Attention to those whom they do Love,

[Price Two Pence.]

Love, and to gather Inſtruction from them, even as it were *without their own Knowledge*; It is, for all theſe Reaſons, methinks very Neceſſary, that the Method, generally obſerved in theſe Caſes, ſhould be Reverſed; that is to ſay, The *Inſtruction* of the Child ſhould be the *Conſequence* of a Tutreſs's *Love* towards it, and not her *Love* towards it be only the *Conſequence* of it's *taking* her *Inſtructions*: What I would mean, is, in ſhort, this, Theſe Guides and Directreſſes of Youth ſhould *begin*, where they generally *end*. They uſually make their *Advices* to be very *plainly* and often *bluntly* known firſt, and as thoſe happen to take Root or not, make their *Affections* or *Reſentments* known afterwards: But they ſhould, in the *firſt* Place, Practice upon the *Affections* of their *Wards*, gain *their* Hearts *firſt*, and *firſt* make their own *Love ſeen* by them; and *afterwards* ſteal their Admonitions into them, hiding them under the Covert of Art from their Eyes, and keeping them, as much as poſſible, *unſeen*. Daily Inſtruction thus Politically couched in proper inſinuating and moving Words of *old* People, whom the *young* Ones affect, will have a *ſecret* prevailing Power, that is Irreſiſtable, and make an amazing Progreſs in tender Minds, in a very ſhort Time. Advices thus given, and not ſeen by thoſe to whom they are given, will be ſure to be very quickly and lively ſeen *in* them.

TO deſcend to a few Particulars in our preſent Caſe: Looking over thoſe Romances and Novels, which her eldeſt Ward unhappily delights in too much, *Aſpaſia* will certainly find ſome Gallant and Heroick Examples, of Male and Female Virtue. Some of theſe ſhe would relate to ſome Friend of her own, that is in the Secret, with very great Applauſes, and as if it were without Deſign, ſo as to be Over-heard by her fair Pupil, who will be prejudiced in favour of a Judgment, that ſeems to favour her own, and that She would be glad ſhould do ſo. She will be charmed o hear this, advance the Intention of its being done without Deſign, and remaining, as it were, *perdue*, liſten greedily to it, as the Commendation of her ſelf. When her Mind is thus ſtrongly prejudiced in the Behalf of her Guardian, when it is thus (as it naturally muſt be) warmed, and juſt ready to take the Impreſſion; then is the Criſis for the finiſhing Stroke; Juſt then the Guardian has an Opportunity of clapping the Seal of Virtue upon her Mind, with an almoſt certain good Effect. A little proper and perſwaſive Piece of Female Oratory, in Commendation of the like Paſſages, more happily and more beautifully expreſſed, in ſuch Books, as ſhe would have her read, will, one Time or other, make her long, and ask, and beg, of her own accord, to ſee them. As for Example; *Aſpaſia* might ſay: Such a Noble Quality is eminently conſpicuous in the Hero of ſuch a Romance; but then he was ſtrangely defective in ſuch Points: The Hero of ſuch a Novel is to be Revered for ſuch a Part of his Conduct, but very greatly to blame in other Reſpects: The principal Characters, in ſuch a Book of Memoirs, is a Favourite, and a ſhining Character, but then too he is not without his Blemiſhes and Imperfections. Such a Gallant, in ſuch a Play, behaves himſelf regularly well throughout the whole Action, and makes me love him at my very Heart; But ſuch a Gallant has a villainous Deſign at Bottom, upon his Miſtreſs's Honour, and is my mortal Averſion. After having thus remark'd upon Quotations out of the Lady's own Scriptures, and according to her own *Faith* and *Belief*, it is Inexpreſſible, what an Effect it might have upon both if growing into a warm and ſudden Rapture, *Aſpaſia* ſhould continue to ſay to her Friend as follows: How does it charm and tranſport one, to find all theſe Virtues, and none of the oppoſite Vices; all theſe Beauties, and none of the Deformities, united in that one Favourite Character of mine, the Character of the *Chriſtian Hero*, written by Sir *Richard Steele*, deſcribed with all the lovely Force of Senſe and Eloquence, with which Heroick Virtue can be deſcribed, and painted with all the pure and glowing Beauties of Expreſſion, with which Beauty can be painted? — This Method, or ſuch a Method as this, would certainly prompt the liſtening *bookiſh* Ward to a ſecret Deſire of ſeeing that little Tract; ſhe would long for it, ſhe would enquire after it, ſhe would beg to read it; ſhe would ſet to reading it prejudiced in its Favour, it would gain upon her in the Reading, till ſhe gained what her Guardian would wiſh, from the reading it. As ſhe has true Taſte, this juſt and lively Picture would beget in her a Contempt and Hatred for thoſe gawdy coarſe Daubings of a Novelift's fulſome Hand. The ſame may be ſaid of the different *Heroines*, celebrated in her favourite Romances. How much more charmingly is the *fine Gentlewoman*, at large, deſcribed in the incomparable Marqueſs of *Halifax* his Advice to a Daughter, and ſo of others. — And pray, What Fruit may not be hoped and expected from hence? — Reading that little Book, called, *The Advice to a Daughter*, and the *Lady's Library*, is enough to make young Women learn that *Heaven-born Knowledge*, to *Know themſelves*: STEELE's *Chriſtian Hero*, and the *Gentleman Inſtructed*, which teach them abundantly to know Men, and the genuine Worth and Dignity of Men. — Such a *Knowledge* of *themſelves*, will be, like the *Amethiſt*, a *friendly* Jewel to their *Chaſtity*, and the *Preſervative* of their *Honour*; And that *true Knowledge* of the *Men* will ſerve, as an *Amulet*, againſt the *Treacheries*, that are uſed by the *artful* Deſigners and Deceivers of *that Sex*, which is almoſt ſure, one Time or other of their Lives, to be either *their DISGRACE* and *RUIN*, or *their ORNAMENT* and *DEFENCE*.

N. B. *There not being Room, without ſpinning this* Paper *to too great a Length, ſome more Hints upon* Education *ſhall be occaſionally put forth, wherein* Aſpaſia's Elder *Charge ſhall be further conſidered, not forgetting the* Younger, *who may be a* fine Woman bred, *notwithſtanding ſhe is ſaid to have been, as it were,* born a COQUET.

ADVERTISEMENT.

RID away with, *October* the 18th, 1724, from the *Three-Compaſſes*, in *Gravenor's-Mews*, near *New-Bond-Street*, by one *William Holdſworth*, who formerly worked with Mr. *William Thompſon*, at the Pit, at *Blackley-Dock* at *Halifax* in *Yorkſhire*, a Black Mare, full Aged, with a Star in her Forehead, two white Feet behind, a Swiſh-Tail, and Thick Mane, about Fourteen Hands high, wrung on the Near-Side; who was entruſted to look after the ſame. He is a middle-ſiz'd Man, about Fifty Years of Age, with dark brown, lank Hair, in a great Coat. Whoſoever gives Notice to Mr. *Joſeph Swann*, at the *Hoſpital-Gate* in *Weſt-Smithfield*, where She may be heard of, ſhall have One Guinea Reward; or if offered to Sale, pray ſtop Her and the Perſon, and ſend Word to the afore-mentioned Place, and you ſhall have the ſaid Reward.

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick Lane*. Where *Letters* and *Advertiſements* are taken in.
And where Compleat SETTS may be had.